CLAIMS

1.   A remote controller which enables a terminal device to control an operation of a device through a network, the remote
5   controller comprising:

an address storage operable to acquire a latest address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time interval through the network, and to store the acquired address;

10   a first communication controller operable to refer to the address stored in the address storage, transmit a status notification request for requesting a notification of a status of the device to the device through the network, and receive status information indicating the status of the device in response to the
15   status notification request from the device;

a status storage operable to store the status information received from the device; and

a second communication controller operable to transmit the stored status information on the device to the terminal device
20   through the network.

2.   The remote controller according to claim 1, wherein the first communication controller transmits the status notification request to the device at a timing the terminal device requests the
25   status of the device.

3.   The remote controller according to claim 1, wherein the first communication controller transmits the status notification request to the device at constant time intervals.

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4.   The remote controller according to claim 1, wherein the device transmits the status information on the device to the first communication controller when the status of the device is changed.

5.   A remote-controlled device controlled by the remote controller according to claim 1, which detects a status of a subject to be controlled in the remote-controlled device and transmits the detected status, as the status information on the device, to the terminal device, in response to the status notification request.

6.   A remote control method of controlling an operation of a device through a network, the method comprising:

acquiring a latest address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals through the network, and storing the acquired address;

referring to the stored address, and transmitting a status notification request for requesting a notification of a status of the device to the device through the network;

receiving status information indicating the status of the device in response to the status notification request from the device;

storing the status information received from the device; and

transmitting the stored status information on the device to the terminal device through the network.

7.   The remote control method according to claim 6, wherein the status notification request is transmitted to the device at a timing the terminal device requests the status of the device.

8.   The remote control method according to claim 6, wherein the status notification request is transmitted to the device at constant time intervals.

9.   The remote control method according to claim 6, wherein the status information on the device is transmitted when the status of the device is changed.

10.   The remote control method according to claim 6, wherein a status of a subject to be controlled in the device is detected and then the detected status is transmitted, as the status information on the device, to the terminal device, in response to the status notification request.